Application No. 10/631,792 Reply to the Notice of Allowance of June 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are presently active in this case, and stand allowed., Claims 10-20 having been canceled by the present amendment subject to Applicants' right to file a divisional application directed thereto. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised..

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment before issuance is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Eckhard H. Kuesters

Registration No. 28,870

Attorney of Record

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\24S\241098US.312 AMT.DOC